

REMARKS

By this Amendment, claims 1-4, 8, 9, 11-15 and 19-24 are amended. Claim 10 has been cancelled previously. Thus, claims 1-9 and 11-51 are currently pending in this application, of which claims 5-7, 16-18 and 25-51 have been withdrawn from consideration. Accordingly, claims 1-4, 8, 9, 11-15 and 19-24 are active in this application, of which claims 1 and 9 are independent.

In view of the above Amendments and the following Remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and timely withdrawal of the pending rejections for the reasons discussed below.

EXAMINER'S INTERVIEW

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the courtesies extending during the interview of May 23, 2005. During the interview, the Examiner expressed that the asserted combination of the cited references may be overcome by amending independent claims 1 and 9. Thus, in this response, claims 1 and 9 are amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion. However, as expressed during the Interview, Applicant does not agree with the Examiner's determination that claims 1 and 9, before this Amendment, would not be patentable over the cited references.

ALLOWED/ALLOWABLE CLAIMS

Applicant appreciates the indication that claims 8, 14 and 19 contain allowable subject matter. While Applicant agrees these claims are patentable over the cited references, Applicant does not agree that patentability resides in each feature exactly

as expressed in the claims, nor that each feature is required for patentability of each claim.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-4, 9, 11-13, 15 and 20-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U. S. Patent No. 4,955,697 issued to Tsukada, *et al.* ("Tsukada") in view of U. S. Patent No. 5,877,830 issued to Shimada, *et al.* ("Shimada"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for at least the following reasons.

With respect to claims 1-4, amended independent claim 1 recites:

"a plurality of pixels defined by the gate lines and the data lines, the gate lines dividing the pixels into a plurality of rows and the data lines dividing the pixels into a plurality of columns;

...

a black matrix layer having a plurality of openings exposing the pixels"

An example of this claimed feature is shown in Fig. 7 of the present application, in which the black matrix layer 91 has a plurality of openings 93 which exposes the pixels, respectively.

In this regard, both Tsukada and Shimada fail to disclose or suggest "a black matrix layer having a plurality of openings exposing the pixels". Particularly, Shimada shows a black matrix layer surrounding the entire display area but does not disclose a black matrix layer having a plurality of openings.

Thus, it is submitted that claim 1 is patentable over the cited references. Claims 2-4 that are dependent from claim 1 would also be patentable at least for the same reasons.

With respect to claim 9, 11-13, 15 and 20-24, amended independent claim 9 recites "a black matrix layer having a plurality of openings exposing the pixels". As previously mentioned, the asserted combination of the cited references does not disclose or suggest this claimed feature. Thus, it is submitted that claim 9 and its dependent claims 11-13, 15 and 20-24 are patentable over the cited references.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of claims 1-4, 9, 11-13, 15 and 20-24.

OTHER MATTERS

In addition to the amendments to the claims mentioned above, claims 1-4, 8, 9, 11-15 and 19-24 are amended for informality correction, better wording and clarification. These amendments are not made for the purpose of avoiding prior art or narrowing the claimed invention, and no change in claim scope is intended. Therefore, Applicant does not intend to relinquish any subject matter by these amendments.


CONCLUSION

Applicant believes that a full and complete response has been made to the pending Office Action and respectfully submits that all of the stated grounds for rejection have been overcome or rendered moot. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims are allowable and that the application is in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative at the number below to expedite prosecution.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: May 25, 2005

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